

designed to advise and instruct an Iraqi Battalion in combat operations. Tragically, on May 3, 2006, while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in the Al Anbar province of Iraq, Captain Letendre gave his last full measure for our Nation when he was killed in action by a suicide vehicle borne improvised explosive device. His valor and service cost him his life, but his sacrifice will have provided freedom from tyranny and oppression for many around the world.

Captain Letendre's hard work and perseverance contributed greatly to his unit's successes and placed him among many of the great heroes and citizens that have paid the ultimate price for their country. Throughout his career, Captain Letendre earned a series of awards that testify to the dedication and devotion he held for his fellow Marines, the Marine Corps, and his country. These awards include: the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with a Combat "V"; the Purple Heart; the Combat Action Ribbon; the Army Achievement Medal; the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; the Iraqi Campaign Medal; the Presidential Unit Citation (Navy); the Joint Meritorious Unit Award; the National Defense Service Medal; the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (3rd Award); the Navy Unit Commendation as well as the expert pistol badge and sharpshooter rifle badge. He was also a graduate of the Survival, Escape, Resistance, and Evasion (SERE) School and was a Green Belt Martial Arts Instructor.

Several times throughout his life, Captain Letendre could have chosen the easier or more comfortable path, but he didn't. He felt a call to something much greater than himself at an early age and followed his heart to where he felt he could help make this world a better place. Because of men like him, this world is safer and more stable, and that is why he is a true hero.

In an e-mail two days before his death, he wrote that he missed his wife and son dearly, but was proud to be over there serving the country. Captain Letendre was an exceptional Marine officer, but most importantly he was a wonderful and caring father, husband, brother, son, and friend to many. And that is how he will be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon my colleagues to remember in our minds and in our hearts the bravery and sacrifice of Captain Brian Letendre, as well as that of all the men and women of the armed services who honorably protect the American people.

#### SENIOR MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS IMPROVEMENT ACT

**HON. BARBARA CUBIN**

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 9, 2006*

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, the shortage of mental health professionals in rural areas has contributed to disproportionately high rates of depression and suicide. In my home State of Wyoming, the suicide rate is twice the national average. Wyoming's seniors in particular are seriously underserved, in part because they have limited options under the Medicare program.

Currently, the only mental health providers allowed to be reimbursed by Medicare are

psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and clinical nurse specialists. In some communities, however, there may only be a marriage and family therapist (MFT) or licensed professional counselor (LPC) available.

The bill I am introducing today will give seniors more options for mental health care by allowing MFTs and LPCs to provide Medicare services at the same reimbursement rates as social workers. MFTs and LPCs are as qualified and able as other mental health providers covered by Medicare, and should be treated accordingly.

Under the Senior Mental Health Access Improvement Act, MFTs and LPCs would be able to provide outpatient psychotherapy and inpatient hospital services. It also allows them to provide Medicare services in Skilled Nurses Facilities, rural health clinics and hospice programs.

We still have a long way to go in improving access to medical care in rural areas like Wyoming. Getting our seniors the mental health care they need is an important step in the right direction.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT WILLIAM "BILL" BROWN

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 9, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant William "Bill" Brown for his over 21 years of dedicated service with the Boulder City police force.

Bill has truly acted in all capacities in the Boulder City Police Department. Having started as a "beat cop" of the street he rose through the ranks to serve as fill-in chief. Greatly respected by the community and his fellow officers, Bill was an asset to the department and performed his duties with skill and professionalism. He was so well respected by his fellow citizens that he was often called while off duty for advice and counsel.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the career of Lieutenant William "Bill" Brown. He epitomized what it is to be a community oriented public servant. Bill's dedication to his fellow officers and the community as a whole truly reflect the best of how First Responders serve. I wish him the best in his retirement.

#### TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 9, 2006*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my fellow Americans and my colleagues in Congress to celebrate one of the most honorable and significant professions. National Teacher Day is an opportunity for us to recognize the extraordinary effort of our Nation's educators and reflect on the profound impact of their work.

As a former teacher and school administrator, I am particularly aware of the challenges that educators face, such as overcrowded and under funded schools. Teachers

are more highly educated than ever and bring a higher level of expertise to their work than their predecessors. The majority of American teachers have at least one advanced degree and 49 percent have at least 15 years of experience in the classroom. Teacher salaries, however, have not increased commensurate with greater teaching experience and higher levels of education.

Low salaries and general discontent with working conditions drive capable, experienced teachers out of the profession, and by 2014, schools nationwide will need another 3.9 million teachers. The numbers of male teachers and teachers of color does not reflect gender and racial trends in the general population. An increase in salaries for all teachers, as well as better recruitment and retention policies for minority and male teachers may help to rectify this problem.

I hope that National Teacher Day will serve as a reminder to Americans of the crucial role that teachers play in our society. It is imperative that we increase funding for education and make teacher's salaries commensurate with their experience, education, and hard work. Teachers help to shape future generations, and they deserve both our respect and our continuing support. Please join me in thanking them on this special day.

#### RECOGNIZING BOULDER CITY HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY CHEERLEADING SQUAD

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 9, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Boulder City High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad for their win at the Inaugural Silver State Spirit Championship this past March.

The championship consisted of four divisions: 1A through 4A, and teams in each division performed a three minute routine judged on originality, appearance, smiling, difficulty, precision and recovery. This event is the only State high school cheerleading championship offered in Nevada.

The members of the Boulder City High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad are to be commended for their success and hard work. Cheerleading is a rather unique athletic event, whereas most high school sports compete in only one season, cheerleading encompasses two. Their time and dedication is reflected in their success.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the Boulder City High School Varsity Cheerleading Squad for their win at the Silver State Spirit Championship. I applaud them for their victory and wish them the best in future seasons.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. CHARLIE POWELL ALBURY

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 9, 2006*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Dr. Charlie Powell Albury of Miami, Florida on her installation as the 40th Imperial Commandress

of the Imperial Court, Daughters of Isis, Prince Hall Affiliated.

On Saturday, May 13, 2006 this great leader will be honored at the Signature Grand Ballroom in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida by friends and members of the organization to mark the assumption of her new responsibilities. She came up through the ranks of this 25,000-member charitable organization since she joined it in 1970. It has now grown to 226 Shrine Temples and 200 Courts of the Daughters of Isis, who serve as its women's auxiliary. Various temples and courts abound throughout the continental United States, Canada, Germany, Italy, England, Spain, Japan, Korea, Guam, Thailand, Panama and the Bahamas.

The group that Dr. Albury will spearhead is both a charitable and social organization whose members have long been dedicated to fostering civic, economic and educational development. Formally organized on August 24, 1910, the Court's Daughters of Isis stresses the development of leaders while encouraging health awareness among youth and adults and the establishment of a network of services for the disabled and senior citizens. The group also recognizes and celebrates the historic achievements of African-American women who have exerted great influence and served as exemplary models for generations of leaders in communities throughout the world. One of its better-known projects targets teenage mothers, high school and college students, who participate in ongoing activities for educational opportunities and career planning.

While its programs are focused on education and academic scholarships, the Imperial Court also ensures health education and mentoring for the leaders of tomorrow through the donation of book bags and school supplies for adopted schools and future members of the Daughters of Isis. Its many members have become permanent fixtures in volunteering their time and effort during the annual College Fund/United Negro College Fund Scholarship Campaigns, Health and Medical Research, American Cancer Society, Mental Retardation, the NAACP and other nationwide efforts benefiting various communities. Consistent with its philosophy of stewardship, this organization has supported many underprivileged people throughout the world.

Dr. Albury served for almost 28 years both as an appointed and elected national officer. She is truly a social-service pioneer and leader, for she has buttressed a rejuvenation of the Imperial Court's Daughters of Isis. For her indefatigable work, she has been cited in the Book of Life of the Black Archives Foundation and in the "Who's Who in the South and Southwest, as well as in the World." Accolades from professional, civic, religious and governmental agencies are both numerous, and well-deserved.

With Dr. Charlie Powell Albury's formal inauguration this Saturday, I join her countless admirers, and colleagues and members of her Imperial Court's Daughters of Isis, in celebrating this historic event. I commend her courageous vision and pragmatic approach to helping others, for she and the organization she leads evokes in simple but noble terms our spirit of hope and optimism in the great American spirit.

## TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FLINT OLYMPIAN GAMES

### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 9, 2006*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Flint Olympian Games as it celebrates 50 years of promoting physical fitness and sportsmanship. Events commemorating this anniversary will be held throughout the summer in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Conceived 50 years ago as a finale to the summer athletic program for Flint students, the Games have grown into a community wide experience. Frank Manley and the Flint School District Community Education Directors held the first planning meeting to organize the Games in 1956. The following year 1500 students participated in 6 sports. Today the Games involve 11,000 contestants active in 22 sports. Encompassing the entire family the Games have become a tradition among generations of Flint residents.

The opening ceremonies will be held on July 11 at Flint Central High School followed by a fitness walk and field day. The competitions will commence on that date and continue through July 22 at locations scattered throughout the community. An awards dinner will be held on July 27 to honor the participants and volunteers that have organized and sponsored this event. The amateur athletes will go on to participate in the 49th annual CANUSA Games. The CANUSA Games is a competition held between the residents of Flint and its sister city, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. The CANUSA Games foster goodwill between the citizens of both communities. Held on alternate years in each community, this year the CANUSA Games will take place in Flint on August 11, 12 and 13. For many of the participants this is their first exposure to persons from another country.

In addition to the actual sports competitions, the organizers have also planned a banquet to be held in June and a golf outing for July. The 50th Flint Olympian Games Celebration is a joint celebration sponsored by the Flint Community Schools, Citizens Blue Ribbon Committee, Greater Flint Olympian-CANUSA Association, City of Flint, the Ruth Mott Foundation and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. The 50th Anniversary Games will be dedicated to the founders, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stewart Mott and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Manley.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in applauding the dedication of the many volunteers and contestants that come together each year in the atmosphere of camaraderie to promote the ideals of sportsmanship, physical well being and friendly competition. Their vision of families playing and working together to accomplish goals is to be commended.

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO EARL AND MILDRED BURRIS

### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 9, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Earl and Mildred Burris for 70 years of marriage.

Earl and Mildred were married in 1936, and over the course of 70 years have raised a family that now includes two children, five grandchildren, and seven great grand children. Earl and Mildred's marriage dates back to the days when Franklin Roosevelt was in the White House, and the Berlin Olympic Games preceding Hitler's march through Europe. During their time together, they have witnessed such historic events as the landing on the moon and the construction and destruction of the Berlin Wall.

They raised their children in an age where they did things together as a family and instilled in them the values of service, community, and charity. In 1990, the couple moved to Boulder City, Nevada. Since that time Earl has been very active in water-related citizens committees, and both Earl and Mildred have been active in the church.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Earl and Mildred Burris for their 70 years of marriage. Their commitment to each other is admirable, and should serve as a lesson to us all. I commend and congratulate them, and wish them many more anniversaries together.

## HONORING OFFICER SCOTT SEVERNS

### HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 9, 2006*

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a solemn heart to honor a hero. On Friday, April 21, 2006 Cpl. Scott Severns of the South Bend Police Department was shot during an attempted robbery. He succumbed to his wounds and passed early Sunday morning.

I have heard it said that at times like these, we should not focus on how someone dies, but on how they lived, but how Cpl. Severns died was a testament to how he lived. When two would-be robbers approached Cpl. Severns and a female companion, brandished a gun, and threatened them, Cpl. Severns instinctively stepped in between the gunman and his friend. Character like this cannot be taught through a police academy course, and it is not issued to every officer after their swearing in. This type of valor can only come from an individual with the heart of a hero.

We oftentimes do not take enough time to appreciate the sacrifice that law enforcement officers make every single day so that we can live in safety. It is easy for us to go about our daily lives without a thought about those that stand in between us and those that would try to hurt us.

Cpl. Severns's sacrifices from the moment he first put on his uniform, until his tragic, premature end, exemplify the best of American law enforcement.